

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006

For Immediate Release

November 17, 2005

Contact Person

Daniel J. Graber
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Timothy P. Hotchkiss, age 25, of Madison, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to possession with intent to distribute cocaine in the Madison area. U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for January 26, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. Hotchkiss faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison.

At today's plea hearing, Hotchkiss agreed with the government that he sold cocaine in the Madison area, including 12 ounces to Jon Olson on July 18, 2005, at Olson's home in Cottage Grove. After being arrested by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents, Olson cooperated with authorities and placed a consensually-monitored telephone call to Hotchkiss complaining about the poor quality of the 12 ounces of cocaine, and asked for some other cocaine. Hotchkiss agreed to sell another six ounces to Olson, and arranged to deliver it at a McDonald's parking lot in Monona on July 22, 2005.

According to the government, DEA agents watched Hotchkiss arrive in a Jeep Cherokee at the agreed upon location at 6:30 p.m. on July 22, 2005 to meet with Olson. When DEA agents moved in to arrest Hotchkiss, he fled the scene and sped away on the

Beltline highway. While in pursuit, DEA agents observed Hotchkiss pouring something out of his Jeep. Agents later recovered approximately 35.5 grams of a white rock-type substance believed to be cocaine. The DEA lab in Chicago later tested the substance and determined it to be cocaine hydrochloride, with a 71% purity rate.

In October 2005, the United States filed a sentencing enhancement motion against Hotchkiss based upon the fact that he has a 2004 felony drug conviction for possession with intent to distribute cocaine in Dane County Circuit Court.

The charges against Hotchkiss were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration-Madison Resident Office. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Graber.

#